

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 24-42 now stand in the present application, claims 1-23 having been canceled. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 7, 9-11, 15, 16 and 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Prorock; has rejected claims 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prorock in view of Neofytides; has rejected claims 5, 6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prorock in view of Georgalas; and has rejected claims 13, 14, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prorock, in view of Georgalas.

1. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's §§ 102 and 103 rejections of the claims.

Applicants have amended the present claims to require a method and system for retrieving information from *two or more* heterogeneous distributed databases of different formats. Applicants have also changed the word rule to policy, the word handler program to software module, and the word request to query. Support for these amendments can be found in the present specification at, *inter alia*, page 7, lines 1-15; page 11, line 11 (query); page 11, lines 24-25; page 18, line 11; and page 26, lines 1-3.

Prorock relates to a system for extracting event data from different Point of Sale (POS) terminals. The POS terminals all have the same format. The item record databases 76 in each local data processing system also all have the same format. Hence the Prorock system does not teach or suggest retrieving information from

heterogeneous distributed databases of different formats, as now more clearly required by the present claims.

No queries are issued in the Prorock system in order to extract event data.

Event data is instead pushed to a remote data processing system.

As a result, a remote data processing system need not query the local data processing system to determine whether new event data has been received.

See, Prorock at column 10, lines 47 – 49. Hence, the system in Prorock does not receive a query detailing information derivable from two or more databases of different formats, as required by the present claims.

Furthermore, the disclosed Prorock system does not store policies and, especially, not policies which declare one or more software modules required for processing a query since no queries are issued in the Prorock system. Accordingly, the amended method and system claims patentably define over Prorock.

In the Office Action the Examiner fails to explain what feature of the cited art corresponds to “rules” (amended to policies) in the present claims. See, Office Action at page 9. The Examiner appears to have completely ignored the meaning of the word “rules” in the claims. It is simply not understood what the Examiner’s statement “*these categories (that include event handler program data) may be monitored to manually extract the event data*” has to do with rules. *Id.*

Moreover, the Examiner’s allegation that “Prorock mentions manually extracting the event data” is not only in error but also beside the point. *Id.*

Data processing system events may, therefore, be monitored from a remote location without the need to log in

to the data processing system to manually extract event data.

See, Prorock Abstract (emphasis supplied). Hence, the advantage of Prorock is that event data is extracted automatically from different POS terminals and *not manually*, as alleged by the Examiner.

In any event, Applicants' invention does not concern extraction of event data from POS terminals: it relates to a user interface to a *heterogeneous distributed database including a plurality of databases of a different format*. And it should be clear that the system in Prorock does not (neither automatically nor manually) select the event data collection module based on first searching the "memory 64" for a "piece of program code" that specifies this module for event data collection.

For all of the above reasons, newly added claims 24-42 more clearly patentably define over Prorock. In addition, it should also be clear that none of the cited secondary references, including the Georgalas references (Georgalas and Georgalas I) and Neofytides, solve the deficiencies of Prorock, so that claims 24-42 patentably define over the cited art taken singly or in any combination.

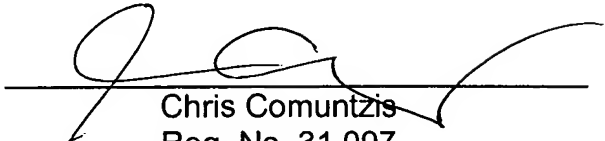
Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 24-42, now standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

GEORGALAS et al
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Respectfully submitted,

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